

REMARKS

The specification has been amended. A new independent claim 21 and new claims 22 – 24 ultimately depending from new independent claim 21 have been added. A new independent claim 25 and new claims 26 – 28 ultimately depending from new independent claim 25 have been added. Claims 11 - 28 are pending in the application.

In the Office Action, the specification is objected to on the grounds of informalities. Additionally, in the Office Action, claims 11 - 12 and 18 - 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over US Patent No. 5,946,180 to Simpson in view of US Patent No. 6,046,441 to Daffron. Furthermore, in the Office Action, claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over US Patent No. 5,946,180 to Simpson in view of US Patent No. 6,046,441 to Daffron as applied to claim 11, and further in view of US Patent No. 5,943,199 to Aromin. Also, in the Office Action, claims 14 – 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over US Patent No. 5,946,180 to Simpson in view of US Patent No. 6,046,441 to Daffron and US Patent No. 5,943,199 to Aromin, and further in view of US Patent No. 5,604,387 to Cheyne.

US Patent No. 5,946,180 to Simpson discloses an electrical connection safety apparatus that detects the electrical current rating of electrical cords or connectors which are plugged into electrical outlets and disconnects power to the outlet and connector whenever the cord current rating is exceeded. The electrical connection safety apparatus can be used in the form of adaptors which couple to conventional electrical connectors and electrical outlets.

US Patent No. 6,046,441 to Daffron discloses a device for disabling an electrical appliance when a fire erupts, the device including an auxiliary plug member 1

within which is a circuit breaker mechanism for disabling power to the electrical device upon receiving a signal from a fire detection assembly comprising a plurality of carbon sensing means such as a conventional carbon monoxide or carbon dioxide detector.

US Patent No. 5,943,199 to Aromin discloses a miniature appliance leakage current interrupter 11 connected to a mains plug.

US Patent No. 5,604,387 to Cheyne discloses low voltage switch 7 for supplying a low voltage load to an appliance such as a laundry machine.

With respect to the rejection of claims 11 -20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over US Patent No. 5,946,180 to Simpson in view of US Patent No. 6,046,441 to Daffron as the primary references, it is submitted that neither US Patent No. 5,946,180 to Simpson nor US Patent No. 6,046,441 to Daffron, alone or in combination, teaches or discloses the device recited in claim 11 of the instant application, wherein the recited fire protection device for domestic appliances includes at least one fault current circuit breaker coupled to the input electrical supply of at least one conductor of a domestic appliance, which fault current circuit breaker disconnects the electrical supply from the appliance when the fault current circuit breaker senses a fault current in the at least one conductor; and at least one gas sensor coupled to sense the quantity of at least one control gas in the appliance, which gas sensor also causes the electrical supply to be disconnected from the appliance when the gas sensor senses a predetermined quantity of the at least one control gas.

In the Office Action, it is asserted that US Patent No. 5,946,180 to Simpson teaches a fault current circuit breaker coupled to the input electrical supply of at least one conductor of a domestic appliance and it is further asserted that it would be within the level of ordinary skill in the art at the time the present

invention was made to have modified the fault current circuit breaker arrangement of US Patent No. 5,946,180 to Simpson with the gas sensor of US Patent No. 6,046,441 to Daffron for sensing gaseous combustion by-products for the purpose of providing a fire protection device that sense both fault currents and gaseous combustion by-products. However, Applicants submit that US Patent No. 5,946,180 to Simpson provides no hint of the desirability of sensing gaseous combustion by-products, such as is recited in claim 11 of the present application, and US Patent No. 6,046,441 to Daffron provides no hint of the desirability of a fault current circuit breaker coupled to the input electrical supply of at least one conductor of a domestic appliance. Thus, neither US Patent No. 5,946,180 to Simpson nor US Patent No. 6,046,441 to Daffron themselves provide one of ordinary skill in the art with some motivation to combine US Patent No. 5,946,180 to Simpson and US Patent No. 6,046,441 to Daffron with one another. Moreover, even if one of ordinary skill in the art were provided with some motivation to combine US Patent No. 5,946,180 to Simpson and US Patent No. 6,046,441 to Daffron with one another, which Applicants submit there is not, the arrangement asserted by the Office Action from selectively combining US Patent No. 5,946,180 to Simpson and US Patent No. 6,046,441 to Daffron would still not perform the same function or operate in the same manner as the device recited in claim 11 of the present application.

Thus, it is accordingly believed to be clear that neither of the primary references US Patent No. 5,946,180 to Simpson and US Patent No. 6,046,441 to Daffron, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claim 11. Additionally, it is submitted that the secondary references US Patent No. 5,943,199 to Aromin and US Patent No. 5,604,387 to Cheyne fail to overcome the deficiencies of the primary references US Patent No. 5,946,180 to Simpson and US Patent No. 6,046,441 to Daffron. Claim 11 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and, since claims 12 - 20 are ultimately

dependent on claim 11, it is submitted that claims 12 – 20 are patentable for at least the reason that claim 11 is patentable.

It is also submitted that new independent claim 21, new claims 22 – 24 ultimately depending therefrom, new independent claim 25, and new claims 26 – 28 ultimately depending therefrom are patentable over the prior art of record for at least the reasons discussed above.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 11 - 20, and favorable consideration of claims 22 - 28, are solicited.

Respectfully submitted



Russell W. Warnock

Registration No. 32,860

March 1, 2006

BSH Home Appliances Corp.

100 Bosch Blvd

New Bern, NC 28562

Phone: 252-672-7927

Fax: 714-845-2807

russ.warnock@bshg.com